



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

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DCR Announces Farms and Gardens Program to Celebrate Preservation Month 2012

BOSTON – May 9, 2012 – May is Preservation Month and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is showcasing its preservation efforts by hosting a variety of programs at its unique historic properties in the Commonwealth's state parks. Visitors can enjoy guided walks and programs at historic sites under the **Farms and Gardens** theme, and a special **Opening Our Doors** event series will give the public access to buildings and structures usually limited from public view.

From Native American sites and cellar holes to country estates and massive engineering landmarks, DCR's historic properties exhibit centuries of human ingenuity in adapting the land for everyday life. Preservation Month is a time to celebrate our cultural heritage and DCR's work to preserving the past. DCR directly preserves historic buildings, landscapes and structures through programs, projects, partnerships and management.

"The Department of Conservation and Recreation is committed to preserving the rich legacy of Massachusetts' history reflected in the landscapes and parks across our state," said DCR Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr. "We welcome everyone out this May for our 'Opening Our Doors' events, which will take visitors behind the scenes and to areas usually limited to staff access in these incredible structures."

The 2012 Preservation Month program features the historic farms and gardens in the DCR system and the work being done to keep history alive. Visitors can learn about timber frame construction at Brookwood Farm in Milton, garden restoration at Borderland State Park in Easton, and adaptive reuse at one of several Historic Curatorship Program properties. Sites range from single family farmhouses to a Civilian Conservation Corps-built lodge atop the state's highest peak. Many of the Curatorship properties will be open during **Opening Our Doors** weekend May 19-20. Visitors will also gain access to places like Wright's Tower at Middlesex Fells Reservation and the Farmhouse and Barn at Stillwater Farm in Sterling.

Each year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation promotes May as Preservation Month to raise awareness about the enormous impact historic preservation has in protecting and enhancing our neighborhoods and communities.

For more information on DCR's Preservation Month program, including locations and programs, visit <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/preservation2012.htm>.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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